



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR175

Site Name: Addison House

Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s) Oxon Hill Manor, Addison Plantation

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Late 17th-19th century plantation

Unknown ☐

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.7928 Longitude -76.9995

Elevation 58 m Site slope 0-5%

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code BIB2

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site ☒

Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☒ Maritime site ☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Oxon Creek

Saltwater

Ocean ☐

Estuary/tidal river ☒

Tidewater/marsh ☐

Spring ☐

Minimum distance to water is 1128 m

Freshwater

Stream/river ☐

Swamp ☐

Lake or pond ☐

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site ☐

Woodland site ☐

Archaic site ☐

MD Adena ☐

Early archaic ☐

Early woodland ☐

Middle archaic ☐

Mid. woodland ☐

Late archaic ☐

Late woodland ☐

Unknown prehistoric context ☐

Contact period site ☐

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

Y

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Y

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

Unknown historic context ☐

Unknown context ☐

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American ☐

Asian American ☐

African American ☐

Unknown ☐

Anglo-American ☒

Other ☐

Hispanic ☐

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead ☒

Farmstead ☐

Mansion ☒

Plantation ☒

Row/townhome ☐

Cellar ☒

Privy ☐

Industrial

Mining-related ☐

Quarry-related ☐

Mill ☐

Black/metalsmith ☐

Furnace/forge ☐

Other ☐

Transportation

Canal-related ☐

Road/railroad ☐

Wharf/landing ☐

Maritime-related ☐

Bridge ☐

Ford ☐

Educational

Commercial

Trading post ☐

Store ☐

Tavern/inn ☐

Military

Battlefield ☐

Fortification ☐

Encampment ☐

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house ☐

Ch support bldg ☐

Burial area

Cemetery ☐

Sepulchre ☐

Isolated burial ☐

Bldg or foundation ☒

Possible Structure ☐

Post-in-ground ☐

Frame-built ☐

Masonry ☒

Other structure ☐

Slave related ☒

Non-domestic agri ☐

Recreational

Midden/dump ☐

Artifact scatter ☒

Spring or well ☒

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken ☐

Flotation samples taken ☐

Other samples taken ☐

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken ☒

Flotation samples taken ☒

Other samples taken Faunal analysis



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text"/>
Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Susquehanna	<input type="text"/>
Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>
Levanna	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	5		
				Potomac Cr	2		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	20	Staffordshire	16	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	1	Tin Glazed	105	English Brown	58
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	1	Whiteware	418	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	30	North Devon	1	Porcelain	144	Nottingham	3
Creamware	237	Pearlware	617			Rhenish	6
						Wt Salt-glazed	81

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts	
Flaked stone	160
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	10
Other lithics (all)	2
Ceramics (all)	12
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>
Other fired clay	1
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="text"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>	European flint	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input type="text"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Basalt	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="text"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input type="text"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sandstone	<input type="text"/>		

☒ Dated features present at site

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic artifacts

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	19166
Glass (all)	52847
Architectural	76767
Furniture	129
Arms	287
Clothing	448
Personal items	496
Tobacco related	4286
Activity item(s)	7189
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misc. kitchen	11609
Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misc.	12265
Other	<input type="text"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="text"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="text"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="text"/>	Earthworks	<input type="text"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Planting feature	<input type="text"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="text"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="text"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="text"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

☐ Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☒ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Addison Plantation House (18PR175), or Oxon Hill Manor, is the remains of a Late 17th–19th century plantation along the Potomac River in rural Prince George's County. The site is situated on a high, steep bluff approx. 1 mile east of the Potomac. The river channel facing the site is tidal & deep enough to allow ocean-going ships. In prehistoric & early historic times the uplands behind the bluff were probably dominated by an oak-hickory forest, while the lowlands between the bluff & river may have had more water resistant species. The river shore is somewhat closer than it was during the period when the site was inhabited, due to modern sand dredging.

The combination of lowlands & uplands along a tidal river supported a diverse fauna. Among other species that inhabited the river & may have been important to the inhabitant of the site were oyster & sturgeon as well as a wide variety of other fish. Waterfowl must also have been plentiful. Land animals, including bison, elk, wolf, bear, & deer, are known to have been relatively abundant during the early years of historic settlement. However, since about the mid 18th century, most of these large mammals have been forced out, & unlike migratory fowl, have not been able to reestablish themselves. Coupled with this rather typical tidewater setting is a humid, temperate climate with mild winters & uncomfortably hot summers. Soils at the site are primarily Beltsville & Chillum silt loams, as well as loams of the Aura series.

Throughout most of its history, Oxon Hill Manor appears to have been one of Maryland's most impressive & valuable agricultural estates. Originating in the 17th century, by the time of the American Revolution it featured an enormous mansion, dozens of slaves, a carriage & horses with liveried outriders, & a level of wealth & prominence which placed its owners among the area's most powerful families.

Archival evidence reveals that the tract on which 18PR175 is located was originally purchased by Col. John Addison in 1687. The estate became the plantation home to four subsequent generations of the Addison family. The Addisons were one of the most economically, socially, & politically prominent families of early Maryland. John Addison emigrated to Maryland in 1674, & served in many public posts in the colony, including on the Maryland Colonial Council, & he also attained the rank of colonel in the colonial militia. In 1677, Col. John married the wealthy widow Rebecca Wilkinson, daughter of Rev. William Wilkinson, the first Protestant clergyman in the colony. Their son, Thomas, was born in 1679 at "Chesborton", in St. Mary's County. John was a merchant, frontier trader, & planter. By the time of his death in 1705, he had amassed an estate of nearly 6,500 acres.

Thomas Addison's many public offices included service on the Maryland Council (1721-1727). He also rose to the rank of colonel in the militia. In 1701 he married Elizabeth Tasker, daughter of Thomas Tasker (another prominent planter). She bore him 2 daughters, but died in 1706. Thomas subsequently married Eleanor Smith in 1709. A brick Georgian manor house (the main part of 18PR175) is thought to have been built by Thomas in 1710-1711 to celebrate his new marriage. Children from this union included sons John, Thomas, Anthony, & Henry.

John Addison married Susannah Wilkinson & inherited an estate of over 3,800 acres, including Oxon Hill, upon his father Thomas' death in June, 1727. John attained the rank of captain in the militia & served in a number of other public offices including Justice of the Provincial Court & Delegate to the Provincial Assembly. Sons born of Capt. John & Susannah included Thomas (born c. 1740), Anthony, & John.

When Capt. John died in 1764, Thomas inherited the manor house & property. In 1767, he had the property resurveyed & is the first to actually refer to the property as "Oxon Hill". He also inherited his uncle Thomas' portion of the family estate. Thomas (the younger) does not seem to have been as politically or militarily active as his forbears. There is no mention of a military rank in connection with his name, although he twice served as a justice on the County Court. Thomas married Rebecca Dulany in 1767 & their sons included Walter Dulany Addison (born in 1769), John, Thomas, & Henry.

Walter Dulany inherited Oxon Hill upon Thomas' death in 1774 (at 5 yrs old). The estate was operated under the trusteeship of Thomas' brother John & an Overton Carr until Rebecca & her 2nd husband, Thomas Hanson, brought suit against the trustees for not honoring Rebecca's dower rights. In 1783, she was awarded a formalized dower (1/3) share of the estate, including 828 acres & the manor house. Over the next several years, the property was leased to several tenants who cleared land & made changes. Eventually, these changes led the Trustees for Walter Dulany to bring suit against Rebecca & her husband for "damages" to the estate (which Walter would one day inherit). The Hansons contended that new land needed to be cleared, as the old tobacco fields had become depleted. The outcome of this suit is unclear. Walter Dulany Addison spent much of the 1780s being educated in England. In 1783 John Hanson, the President of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation, died at Oxon Hill while visiting his nephew, Thomas Hanson.

Walter Dulany Addison returned to Maryland by at least 1790, as the US census for that year lists him as the unmarried owner of 20 slaves. In 1792, Walter married Elizabeth Hesselius. They moved into the Oxon Hill manor house the following year. Rev. Walter Dulany Addison became the first Episcopal priest ordained in America. He was initially given charge of Queen Anne's Parish & by about 1801 he was installed as rector of St. John's Church, Broad Creek. While Elizabeth enjoyed entertaining family, friends, & others at Oxon Hill, Walter seems to have been disinterested in the manor's management. Early in his tenure, he began selling off portions of the property & in 1794 gave 400 acres to his mother & 500 acres to his youngest brother. By 1797 the estate was reduced to approx. 1,500 acres.

About 1800, Walter began to make arrangements for the emancipation of the enslaved Africans in his ownership. At that time he altered his will to provide freedom for men over 25 & women over 20 years of age upon his death. Walter & his family had quit the manor house at Oxon Hill by 1806. In 1808, Walter's wife Elizabeth died. Her passing seems to have brought a significant change over him, & the following year he moved to Georgetown to take charge of the new St. John's Church there. In 1810 he sold 1,328 acres, including the Oxon Hill manor house, to Zachariah Berry, & over the next decade divested himself of the remainder of the estate lands. He did, however, retain ownership of the family cemetery.

Zachariah Berry was a wealthy planter from elsewhere in the county. Unlike Walter Dulany Addison, he was active in the pursuit of wealth. He turned Oxon Hill Manor over to his son, Thomas Berry, in 1812, & the son maintained the estate at roughly the same size (1,308 acres) until his death in 1854 or 1855. The Berrys practiced a more diversified agriculture in 1850 than might be expected, relying more heavily on livestock, grain, & to a lesser extent, orchard products, than on the traditional tobacco. The manor house burned to the ground in February of 1895 & was not rebuilt by the property's owners. During the 1930', much of the brick was reportedly removed & other vandalism likely took place.

The ruins of the old Oxon Hill Manor house were re-discovered in 1980 & recorded as archeological site 18PR175 as part of a Phase I survey for a planned



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Late 17th-19th century plantation

Unknown ☐

Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 Interchange. Also recorded at that time were the Addison family cemetery (18PR176) & the presumed Addison mausoleum (18PR177), which have associated synopsis reports.

The 1980 Phase I work entailed an initial pedestrian survey of the entire tract purchased by SHA, examining all tree falls, hilltops, & erosional cuts. This was followed by selective shovel testing (STPs) within the actual highway ramp corridor. STPs were excavated approx. every 30 m along the corridor. Soils were not screened. No prehistoric artifacts were recorded, but the three historic sites were identified. Site 18PR175 consisted of the original foundation & excavated basement (which measures approx. 50 ft north-south by 25 ft east-west). Although the site was very overgrown, a large quantity of red brick was visible in a scatter which extended at least 10 m on each side of the house.

Based on the Phase I recommendations, researchers at the University of Maryland (UMD) conducted additional archaeological examinations in 1981. Actual testing of the project area around the Addison House site was conducted in 4 discrete phases. The first phase included a complete pedestrian survey of the entire 11,594 m project area. The next phase involved the creation of a grid system composed of 5 m cells over the entire project area, with a total of 626 STPs excavated at intersecting points. All matrix was screened, with recovered artifacts being saved, curated, & analyzed. The third phase of testing involved the use of a geologist's probe to further test for structural remains or artifact concentrations. Probing transects radiated out from the house foundation on 10 degree compass increments following a circular pattern. And finally, 18 formal 1 X 1 m test units were excavated at discretionary locations to further investigate potentially significant features & artifact concentrations. All test units were excavated in 10 cm levels & all soil matrix was screened. In addition, the extant foundation remnant was exposed & mapped.

Over 4,600 artifacts were recovered from the excavated portions of the site. Subsurface features were encountered in front of the house (a cobblestone drive) & a large pit (a possible root cellar hole) was uncovered & tested to the northeast of the house. Further northeast, the remains of a structure were identified. The lack of subsurface features in the area where the wings of the house are thought to have been located was puzzling to the UMD researchers. It was hypothesized that the wings & perhaps most of the outbuildings were probably not substantial brick structures like the house itself, but were possibly post-on-the-ground structures. In general, there was very little disturbance from plowing or other forces.

Artifacts encountered during the course of the 1981 UMD study include 2 activity items (a clay marble & a small metal lock), 955 architectural artifacts, 7 clothing items (2 plastic buttons, 1 metal button, a piece of cloth, & 3 buckles), 686 kitchen-related artifacts, 2 personal items (a rusted pen knife & a plastic comb), 62 tobacco pipe stems, 4 arms objects (3 cartridges/shells & a Minié ball), & 2,920 miscellaneous objects. The architectural artifacts include 851 brick pcs., 98 pcs. of mortar, 2 concrete pcs., a metal door bolt, & 3 metal hinges. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 517 ceramic sherds (46 creamware, 248 pearlware, 1 annularware, 43 miscellaneous earthenware, 1 Vesterville, 1 Chinese Export porcelain, 21 other porcelain, 13 whiteware, 19 redware, 1 late 19th C. ironstone, 5 18th C. slipware, 4 white salt-glazed stoneware, 2 English Brown stoneware, 1 18th C. domestic brown stoneware, 2 19th C. gray stoneware, 1 Westerwald, 3 brown stoneware, 5 gray stoneware, 2 miscellaneous stoneware, & 98 unidentified stoneware), 57 animal bones, & 112 oyster shell pcs.. The miscellaneous objects were 568 unidentified metal items, 2,141 pcs. of glass (much of this may be kitchen-related or window glass, but data is not specific enough in the full site report), 124 pcs. of slate, 2 wood pcs., a piece of plastic, 79 coal pcs., & 5 slag pcs..

At the time of the original UMD study, the planned highway alignment called for the southbound lane to pass directly through the remnant foundation at 18PR175. This lane, along with the north-bound lane, would also impact the artifact deposits delineated as a result of the 1981 work. In short, if construction proceeded as originally planned, almost the entire study area would be destroyed. After reviewing draft versions of the full UMD site report, the engineering firm involved in the project (in consultation with Maryland SHA) proposed an alternative alignment. The proposed realignment shifted the highway north & placed a retaining wall between the roadway & the foundation. This new alignment would leave the foundation & various features intact but would destroy the areas containing artifacts to the west of the foundation, thus, additional work was mandated to mitigate the effects of the retaining wall installation.

Researchers from the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey (MGS), conducted more detailed investigations (intensive Phase II testing) during the fall of 1983 & winter of 1984 in the western half of the area investigated by UMD. Their investigations involved the excavation of dispersed sampling units in areas indicated to be culturally significant by re-analysis of UMD's systematic sample & in areas with above-grade features. Test excavations were undertaken in five locations within the impact area for the new retaining wall & roadway. These were designated Areas I through V by the investigators.

Area I included the site of the planned retaining wall directly north of the manor house. Areas II, III, & IV were delineated by re-analyzing the artifacts recovered during the systematic sampling in 1981. Area V was the site of the possible root cellar or storage pit identified in 1981. After a pedestrian survey of the new impact zone, a grid was established & oriented in relation to the (then) extant highway centerline & thirty-three 1 X 1 m test units were excavated in Areas I-V. All excavations were undertaken in natural strata with all soil matrices sifted through hardware mesh & cultural materials retained by provenience. Records were kept on standardized forms & excavations generally continued until undisturbed strata were reached. Profiles of the test units & features were recorded when applicable.

Area I (13 test units), adjacent to the house foundation, was found to contain a well, yard fences, & apparent landscaping features. Based on the small portion of the area sampled (less than 4%) & historic documentation, it was considered likely that other significant features were present. Area II (10 units) was a large zone of artifact deposition down the slope north of the manor house. The artifacts concentrate 40 m from the foundation in an area roughly 50 m X 20 m. This slope deposit appears to represent a principal area of deposition for cultural material emanating from the manor house during both the 18th & 19th centuries. As such, it offers documentation of the social status & material wealth of the occupants. Additionally, an 1863 topographic survey indicates a structure near this area. Area III (2 units) contained a large, rectangular, flat-topped mound of fill northwest of the foundation remnant. The mound appeared to have been constructed to create a level area on which to build a structure in the middle of the 19th century. Area IV (6 units) was located about 20 m west of the foundation & was found to contain a greatly modified landscape resulting from the deposition of large quantities of fill in the 18th century to create a formal garden. The fill preserved the pre-garden landscape from later modification, including a prehistoric Moyaone occupation on the western terrace edge. In addition to the formal test units, 26 STP were excavated in this area at 5 m intervals to further define the stratigraphy of the area. And finally, Area V (2 units) encompassed the large cellar hole identified during previous work at the site. The 1983-1984 testing suggested that whatever structure was situated here, dates to the early 19th century. In general, the excavation work by MGS in 1983-1984 suggested that this portion of the site also retained significant deposits with excellent integrity.

Only temporally diagnostic artifact tallies are provided in the full site report from the 1983-1984 study. Thus, the quantities provided in the table above are skewed downward. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from the site during Phase II work in 1983-1984 include 1 activity item (globe lamp glass), 12 architectural objects (4 19th C. window glass shards, 7 cut nails, 1 wrought nail), 1,135 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 white clay tobacco pipe, 4 miscellaneous historic artifacts (coal), & 3 prehistoric sherds (Moyaone ware). The kitchen assemblage included 735 ceramic sherds (31 tin-glazed earthenware, 10 Staffordshire



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slipware, 4 Buckley, 2 cream-colored ware, 1 Whieldonware, 134 creamware, 247 pearlware, 21 Chinese Export porcelain, 3 19th C. porcelain, 1 porcelain, 1 semi-porcelain, 226 whiteware, 12 yellowware, 4 Rhenish stoneware, 8 white salt-glazed stoneware, 7 English Brown stoneware, 20 19th C. gray stoneware, 2 19th C. Bristol stoneware, & 1 miscellaneous stoneware) & 400 glass pcs. (3 18th C. table glass, 2 19th C. table glass, 221 18th C. bottle glass, 172 19th C. bottle glass, & 2 20th C. bottle glass shards).

Additional testing was undertaken by MGS in the eastern portion of the new alignment in the fall of 1984 (designated Area VI). The prior work by MGS involved extensive archival research & that work suggested that this eastern area had high potential for 19th century features. In addition, the fall 1984 work was undertaken to examine above-grade features noted in the field during a preliminary survey conducted once the understory had been cleared.

The first step in the project was pedestrian survey to locate above-grade features. Following that, a systematic sample of STPs was excavated at 10 m intervals. Based on the results of the initial tests, areas with artifact clusters were shovel tested at 5 m intervals. Five locales within Area VI were selected for the more intensive investigation & these were designated Areas VIa (the western-most) thru VIe (the eastern-most). A final sample of STPs was excavated at 2.5 m intervals in the highest density areas of each of these five locales to provide a larger artifact sample, to refine the distributional information, & to locate & delineate soil anomalies. The STPs (average 35 cm in diameter) were manually excavated to sterile subsoil, with soil sifted through hardware mesh.

Based on artifact densities, occurrences of soil anomalies, & above-grade features, 36 one m square test units were excavated. These were excavated in natural & cultural layers. When a soil stratum was greater than 10 cm in thickness, the layer was arbitrarily divided into 10 cm levels within the stratum. All soils were sifted through mesh screen with all cultural material retained by layer. All subsurface features were excavated in section to obtain soil profiles & internal stratigraphy was drawn to scale & recorded on standardized forms.

The controlled excavations in Area VIa located structural post holes, what appears to be a cellar hole, & several landscape/planting features. Artifacts recovered suggest that this was an area of intensive occupation in both the 18th & 19th centuries, with at least 2 & possibly 3 buildings being represented. Deleterious impact to Area VIa was limited to a 20th century road which scraped a portion of the locale & redeposited it slightly downslope, but did not impact historic features. Artifact concentrations in Area VIb provided evidence of the remains of at least two of four structures shown in a cluster on an 1863 topographic map. The largest structure was represented by a high concentration of architectural debris & what appeared to be a robbed-out brick footing (likely demolished in the late 19th or early 20th century). The second structure is the easternmost of the buildings from the 1863 map & is represented by a cluster of 18th & 19th century domestic debris suggestive of an ephemeral dwelling such as a tenant house or slave quarter. Area VIc was also represented by a small artifact concentration including 18th & 19th century domestic debris. A test square in this area did not reveal any features, but indicated good stratigraphic integrity. Again, this may represent an ephemeral dwelling. Area VIc was more severely disturbed (by 20th century roadways) with only a 3 m strip being potentially unaffected. The deposit was, similarly, a small artifact concentration with 18th & 19th century domestic materials. And finally, Area VIe was tested intensely due to the presence of a scatter of 18th century ceramics & other material. The results of the 2.5m grid testing & 1 m square testing confirmed that the artifact deposit was widely scattered, likely the result of field dumping. Two features were identified, but determined to be modern in origin.

Artifacts encountered during the supplementary Phase II project conducted by MGS in 1984 include 202 activity items, 18,601 architectural remains, 10 clothing items, 8 furniture objects, 4,505 kitchen-related artifacts, 5 personal items, 126 tobacco-related artifacts, 10 arms objects, 9,323 miscellaneous historic items, & 179 prehistoric artifacts. The activity items included 9 toys (2 clay marbles, 5 glass marbles, & 2 plastic toy parts), 151 lighting items (75 pcs. of lamp glass, a lamp part, & 74 lightbulb pcs.), a magic marker, a flashlight bulb, 2 tool handles, an aerosol can, 2 metal clamps, 3 non-electrical wire pcs., 2 vinyl straps, 4 metal straps, a large chrome grommet, a chain link, 3 hook & pulley components, an iron ring & bolt, 1 miscellaneous hardware item, 3 windshield wiper pcs., a car lightbulb, car headlight parts, a carburetor, a vial of battery acid, a horseshoe, 5 clay lumps (1 fired), & 6 redware flowerpot pcs.. The architectural remains include 14,993 bricks & brick pcs., 10 ceramic tiles, 903 mortar pcs., 660 window glass pcs. (at least 4 described as "Colonial"), 2 plaster pcs., 3 wood pcs., 26 dried paint pcs., 6 pcs. of daub, a cinderblock chunk, 1,957 nails (326 cut, 67 wrought, 61 wire, & 1,503 unidentified), 6 screws, 3 hinges, 5 spikes, 9 nuts/bolts, 11 terra-cotta sewer pipe pcs., a porcelain electrical insulator part, 4 electrical parts, & a florescent light starter. The ten clothing-related artifacts were 2 buttons, 3 metal snaps, a piece of leather, 2 rivet (1 through leather), a clothespin spring, & a zipper. The furniture artifacts include 2 pcs. of glass from a refrigerator shelf, 2 tacks, 2 pcs. of rug tacking, an upholstery fragment, & an electric plug prong. The kitchen assemblage includes 415 ceramic sherds (4 18th C. lead-glazed, 7 tin-glazed, 12 Buckley, 1 North Devon, 1 Manganese-mottled, 6 Staffordshire slipware, 1 Jackfield, an 18th C. agate-like ware, 4 cream-colored ware, 16 creamware, 47 pearlware, 179 whiteware, 7 yellowware, 1 Rockingham, 16 redware, 2 miscellaneous 18th C. earthenware, 19 miscellaneous earthenware, 1 18th C. porcelain, 20 porcelain, 5 ironstone, 7 18th C. stoneware, 7 white salt-glazed stoneware, 2 English Brown stoneware, 1 Rhenish stoneware, 9 gray salt-glazed stoneware, 27 gray stoneware, 6 miscellaneous stoneware, & 6 unidentified ceramics), 3,114 pcs. of kitchen glass (85 pcs. of table glass, 9 milk glass lid liners, 4 pcs. of milk bottle, a piece of 18th C. Wald glass, 140 Colonial bottle glass pcs., & 2,875 other bottle glass pcs.), a rubber bottle stopper, 22 bottle caps, 4 zinc lid pcs., and 459 metal can fragments, 12 pcs. of aluminum foil, a "Bicardi" cup, a utensil handle, a plastic utensil, a plastic toothpick, 473 faunal remains (2 turtle shell pcs., 95 animal bones, 376 oyster shell pcs.), & 1 seed/nut/pit. The 5 personal items recovered include a key, a Spanish Real, a Silver ring (male), a plastic bandage, & a Crest toothpaste tube. The tobacco-related artifacts were 76 white clay pipe stem pcs., 49 white clay pipe bowl pcs., & an unidentified pipe stem. The ten arms items were 6 pcs. of flint debitage, a piece of lead shot, a gunflint, a .22 caliber bullet, & a shotgun shell. The miscellaneous historic items were a piece of chrome, 4 pcs. of lead, 1,003 unidentified pcs. of metal, 43 other glass objects, 1,424 pcs. of slate, 259 other pcs. of stone, 2 pcs. of Bakelite, 61 pcs. of plastic, 11 pcs. of rubber, 3 pcs. of Styrofoam, 85 charcoal pcs., 6,031 pcs. of coal, 394 slag pcs., a horse bone, & an unidentified object. The prehistoric assemblage consisted of 3 formal tools (a stemmed point, a point, & a biface), 4 retouched flakes, 45 other flakes, 76 pcs. of debitage (described as shatter, chips, & pcs.), 31 potential cobble/pebble tools, 2 pitted cobbles, 10 pcs. of fire-cracked rock, 7 ceramic sherds (2 Moyaone, 2 Potomac Creek, 1 sand-tempered), & a fired clay lump.

Based on the findings of the MGS archeological testing, Phase III data recovery was recommended in Areas I, II, IV, V, & VIa-d, in the hopes of examining more fully several of the features previously identified. This data recovery was carried out during the first 6 months of 1985 & involved a complex set of fieldwork activities by a team of as many as 60 individuals. The field team was sub-divided into 7 crews, each with their own crew chief, all overseen by a field director & PI. In addition, a number of specialists (a photographer, administrative staff, lab director & conservator, etc.) were hired on to help complete the project within the allotted 6 months. The excavations were plagued by bad weather throughout the data recovery project.

General field methods involved hand excavation of 1 X 1 m units in Areas I, II, IV, & V & 2 X 2 m units in Area VI. These units were placed on the same grid as the prior MGS study & tied to benchmarks. Unit excavation was supplemented by backhoe trenching & mechanical stripping in Areas III, IV, & VI. In addition, specialized features, such as the wells & cellars, required special treatment. The wells were excavated in 20 cm levels after the initial layers of testing backfill & loose sticks & debris were removed. The cellars were excavated in 1 X 1 m units aligned with the cellar. After testing the upper levels of fill in the cellars, the remaining fill was removed by a backhoe to expose the earlier, lower deposits. These lower deposits were then excavated entirely by hand.



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR175

Site Name: Addison House

Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s) Oxon Hill Manor, Addison Plantation

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Late 17th-19th century plantation

Unknown ☐

The 1 X 1 & 2 X 2 units were excavated in natural layers. If a given natural layer exceeded ten cm in depth, it was divided into arbitrary 10 cm sublevels, & natural lenses within a numbered layer were recorded separately as well. Occasionally, it was deemed necessary to excavate an entire unit to subsoil as 1 level regardless of its depth in order to expose features which otherwise would not have been found. Soil from these units was not screened. This strategy was used only after the stratigraphy of an area was known (and when time restrictions were severe) & was considered preferable to the alternative (mechanical stripping). Such unscreened units were placed primarily in Areas I & VIa, & to a lesser extent in Areas V & VIb.

Once each level of a unit was completed, it was mapped & photographed. If a level contained a feature, excavation in that unit stopped until the feature had been excavated separately from the level. One by one m units were also considered part of a larger 2 X 2 m block. Once a 2 X 2 m block was completed, the north profile of this area was drawn. This provided a continuous record of the stratigraphy of each area excavated.

Soil (with the exceptions noted above) was dry-screened through mesh hardware cloth until March 28th, 1985 when drilling of a well on-site was completed. This well was drilled for the purpose of providing a water source for wet-screening through the hardware mesh & for flotation of soil samples. However, only 5 water screens could be kept in operation at a time because of the low water yield of the well, & the amount of soil being recovered usually required all of the 10 or more screens, so some of the material was dry screened even after the well was installed. The only excavation operation which was entirely water screened was the material from the 2 wells. Since the artifact & faunal preservation in the wells was exceptional, it was determined that water screening of the fill from these features take priority.

Backhoe trenching was utilized in Areas III & IV to expose sections of areas that were expected to contain buried deposits. Area IV did indeed have a deeply buried A horizon below an artificial terrace, while Area III proved to be a turn-around area for heavy equipment during the construction of I-95 in the 1960s. In Area VIb, once units were excavated in specific areas of high artifact or feature concentration (as indicated by the earlier MGS testing), mechanical stripping was employed to expose the entire area & its features. Exposure of these features could not have been accomplished with hand excavations in the time available. Area VIb was stripped with a grader to remove the topsoil from the area. Once exposed in this fashion, features were flagged, mapped, & excavated separately.

Features in the Phase III project area included 2 wells, 2 cellars, 1 foundation, 1 possible barn defined by drip lines & a pad, 3 potential structures defined by post hole & mold patterns, post holes, trenches, drainage features, planting holes, & planting trenches. Features were photographed before excavation, & then most were bisected & removed in halves. In the case of post holes & molds, the molds were removed first. Once bisected, the feature's stratigraphy was recorded from the exposed half & photographed. A final plan was drawn & more photographs were taken once the feature was completely excavated. Historic trench features, however, were excavated in sections. These sections varied from one area to the next as the situation demanded. Once a section was removed, the excavated area was mapped & photographed.

Soil samples for flotation analysis were taken from the southeast corner of every 2 X 2m block at each level. Within features, the number of soil samples taken varied with the type of feature involved. Flotation was conducted on site & the resulting samples were analyzed by a qualified archeobotanist. Additional soil samples were removed for pedological study.

Field work began in Area I & continued sequentially to Area VI. The 1985 Phase III work at the site involved a total of 1,219 square meters of hand-excavated soil, uncovering a total of 324 features. Twenty-one other features were exposed by mechanical stripping in Area VIb. The total number of features exposed was, thus, 345, with nearly 66,000 artifacts recovered during the 1985 Phase III work. Area II had the highest concentration of artifacts & Area V had the highest concentration of features. Area VIc, with only five square meters opened, revealed no features & had the lowest density of artifacts as well.

Area I was located in the north portion of the site, adjacent to the manor house ruin. That area proved to contain a large number of archeological features which included postholes, planting holes & trenches, a cobble deposit that had probably been the floor of a structure, a cellar, & a well. Ethnobotanical analysis of minor features within Area I yielded seeds of herbs & ornamental plants, & it's likely that herb & flower gardens accounted for the observed planting features. Further, the artifacts recovered from all Area I contexts, except the well, yielded very small & fragmented artifacts that were probably too small to have been removed during regular cleaning of that space. That finding stands in sharp contrast to most colonial sites, in that trash dumping in colonial yards seems to be the rule, rather than the exception. Scrupulous maintenance & care of the side yards seems to have broken down during the 19th century, & more specifically during the second half of the 1800s. Lack of care was indicated by the presence of irregular, erosional features that contained 19th century artifacts, normally in an oyster shell matrix.

Artifacts recovered from Area I include 3,893 activity items, 23,102 architectural objects, 341 clothing items, 64 furniture items, 26,588 kitchen-related artifacts, 69 personal objects, 2,478 tobacco-related artifacts, & 53 arms objects. The activity items consisted of 2 bale seals, 29 toys, 89 miscellaneous hardware objects, a construction tool, 28 farm tools, 20 storage items, 39 pcs. of horse tack, an ink well, & 3,684 unidentified activity items. The architectural artifacts include 10,474 window glass pcs., 12,571 nails (687 cut, 2,568 wrought, 69 wire, & 9,247 unidentified), 14 spikes, 19 pcs. of construction hardware, 3 door lock parts, & 21 miscellaneous architectural items. The 341 clothing items were 12 buckles, 1 thimble, 77 buttons, 30 straight pins, 16 hooks & eyes, a pair of scissors, 188 shoe parts, 13 textile pcs., & 3 miscellaneous clothing items. Furniture items were 50 tacks, 4 drawer pulls, 4 furniture lock parts, a metal furniture foot, & 5 metal furniture parts. The large kitchen assemblage consisted of 9,095 ceramics sherds (1 tin-glazed/Faience, 44 tin-glazed/Delftware, 7 Buckley, 1 agateware, 3 cream-colored ware, 28 creamware, 13 pearlware, 27 miscellaneous earthenware, 1 yellowware, 34 redware, 28 Chinese export porcelain, 1 early export porcelain, 2 early porcelain, 9 late porcelain, 4 ironstone, 1 Nottingham stoneware, 40 white salt-glazed stoneware, 26 English-brown stoneware, 1 Rhenish stoneware, 2 Black basalt, 4 Westerwald, 8 miscellaneous stoneware, 1 Colonoware, & 8,809 unidentified ceramics), 17,367 glass objects (1,382 pcs. of table glass & 15,985 bottle glass), 121 kitchenware items, & 5 pcs. of tableware. Personal items include 6 glass beads, 4 unidentified beads, a glass shirt stud, 6 coins, 2 keys, & 50 miscellaneous items. The tobacco-related items were 2,478 pipe stem & bowl pcs.. The 53 arms objects were 29 lead ball/shot/sprue pcs., 20 gunflints, & 4 gun parts.

Area II was adjacent to & north of Area I, extending east to the boundary of Area VIa. That area occupied a fairly steep slope that led into a ravine, & it was hypothesized that it would contain midden deposits from the main house that dated from much of the site's occupational span. Excavation of the area yielded a large collection of artifacts, but once again the artifacts were small & highly fragmented. There was little observable difference in the size of those artifacts in comparison to the materials from the surface contexts & cellar in Area I. Area II was evidently kept as clean of debris as the Area I side yard. It was apparently viewed as part of the side yard as it was certainly kept free of major trash.

Artifacts recovered from Area II included 680 activity items, 2,964 architectural objects, 10 clothing items, 5,625 kitchen-related artifacts, 9 personal items, 322 tobacco-related items, 7 arms objects. The activity items were 1 toy, 4 miscellaneous hardware items, a storage item, 2 horse tack items, & 672



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR175

Site Name: Addison House

Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s) Oxon Hill Manor, Addison Plantation

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Late 17th-19th century plantation

Unknown ☐

unidentified objects. The architectural artifacts were 1,595 window glass pcs., 26 cut nails, 82 wrought nails, 1,255 unidentified nails, 4 spikes, & 2 door lock parts. The clothing items were a buckle, 2 thimbles, 5 buttons, a hook & eye, & 1 unidentified clothing object. The kitchen-related artifacts included 3,879 unidentified ceramics, 1,664 bottle pcs., 4 kitchenware objects, & 78 tableware items. Personal objects include a glass bead, a glass shirt stud, a coin & 6 miscellaneous objects. The tobacco-related items were 322 pipe stem & bowl pcs.. And finally, the arms objects were 4 lead ball/shot/sprue pcs. & 3 gunflints.

Area IV was located to the west & adjacent to the manor house ruin, & had been interpreted as a formal garden. Investigation of that area revealed complex systems of brick-lined drains that had been placed immediately below the ground surface. Those drains were probably placed to keep that area of the garden free of surface water. It was interpreted on the basis of the Phase III investigations to have been a formal lawn or perhaps a bowling green. Area IV contrasted with Areas I & II in two important ways. First, extensive fill deposits had been placed to the west of the manor house to create the level pad that became the formal lawn & garden. That was accomplished very early in the historic occupation of the site. The fill was almost devoid of artifacts, & may have actually been dirt excavated from the pit that was to contain the manor house cellar. The second difference between Area IV & Areas I & II was that while the two side yard areas contained a large sample of small, fragmented artifacts, Area IV contained a small artifacts sample with a high frequency of window glass. It's evident that Area IV was treated as a much more formal space than the Area I side yard in that even extremely small artifacts were rare in that area.

Artifacts from Area IV were 62 activity items (a piece of fishing gear, & 61 unidentified items), 1,883 architectural artifacts (1,822 pcs. of window glass, 13 wrought nails, 48 unidentified nails), 5 clothing items (2 buckles, 2 buttons, & a garter snap), 2 furniture objects (a drawer pull & a furniture lock part), 572 kitchen-related artifacts (66 unidentified ceramics, 483 bottle pcs., 11 pcs. of kitchenware, & 12 pcs. of tableware), & 21 arms objects (all ball/shot/sprue pcs.).

Areas I, II, & IV were the areas investigated during this project that were located closest to the manor house. It's evident that Areas I & II were utilized on a day-to-day basis. Area I contained an extremely high density of archeological features. The frequent use of those areas probably accounted for the residue of small artifacts left behind on the ground surface recovered during this project. That artifact residue was absent in Area IV, & the majority of the artifacts that were present dated to the 19th century, probably to the second half of that century. Area IV was, in all probability, the most formal outside space in the entire complex, & appears to have been almost as much a focus of the hierarchical arrangement of space in the entire complex, & appears to have been almost as much a focus of the hierarchical arrangement of space within the site as the manor itself.

Excavation of Area V revealed & ash-filled foundation that probably served the plantation as a meat house or milk house. A date of 1750 was derived for that structure based on mean ceramic dating, but that date was based on a sample of only 9 delft sherds. The mean ceramic date places the structure in the 18th century, but does not preclude destruction of the building above the feature at an earlier or later date. The Area V structure could have been a meat house shown on the 1765 estate inventory compiled after the death of John Addison. That structure was apparently no longer present by 1775, & was probably destroyed by fire between 1765 & 1775. A large depression was noted immediately to the south of the hypothesized meat house, & has been interpreted as an icehouse pit. The relationship of the hypothesized icehouse to the meat house cannot be determined until that feature is excavated, but it may have served a milk house function in compliment to the excavated meat house structure.

Artifacts collected during the excavation of Area V included 82 activity items (2 construction tools, 2 horse tack items, 78 unidentified items), 1,724 architectural objects, 2 clothing-related items (a thimble & a button), 3 furniture objects (tacks), 1,423 kitchen-related artifacts, 2 personal items (glass beads), 76 tobacco pipe pcs., & 2 arms items (gunflints). The architectural assemblage included 46 window glass pcs., 1,674 nails (3 cut, 31 wrought, & 1,640 unidentified), 2 pcs. of construction hardware, & 2 door lock parts. The kitchen assemblage from Area V consisted of 683 ceramic sherds (12 tin-glazed/Delftware, 3 Buckley, 2 cream-colored ware, 2 creamware, 2 pearlware, 8 miscellaneous earthenware, 1 yellowware, 9 redware, 7 Chinese export porcelain, 1 early porcelain, 1 porcelain, 2 ironstone, 3 white salt-glazed stoneware, 7 English Brown stoneware, 3 Westerwald, 20 miscellaneous stoneware, 3 Colonoware, & 597 unidentified ceramics), 727 bottle glass pcs., 6 kitchenware pcs., & 7 tableware pcs..

Area VIa was located to the east of Areas II & V. That area contained evidence of a compound interpreted as a plantation storehouse. The artifact pattern for Area VIa exhibited almost equal amount of kitchen & architecture group artifacts. Area VIa also returned the highest number of tobacco-related artifacts of any investigated context within the site (roughly 14%). These patterns suggest that Area VIa was a gathering place; a place where a certain amount of leisure time was spent. A storehouse for plantation tools & hardware was mentioned on a 1727 inventory and, although not specifically mentioned in 1765 or 1775, a storehouse was probably maintained on the property through much of the history of the site. Area VIa may have served as a domestic structure, perhaps as an overseer's house for part of its history, but the available data for that area are too equivocal to allow for a complete functional history to be drawn.

A probable potato house was located in a portion of Area VIa during the late 19th century. The potato house, which was only partially explored during this project, functioned as a storage facility, & may have served to perpetuate the storage function of this area during the later history of the plantation. This would mean that this portion of the site maintained its general storage function, despite radical changes in the cropping system at Oxon Hill.

Artifacts from Area VIa include 2,223 activity items, 3,725 architectural artifacts, 19 clothing objects, 24 furniture items (23 tacks & an engraved chest lock), 3,912 kitchen-related artifacts, 4 personal items (3 glass beads & a coin), 1,174 tobacco pipe stem & bowl pcs., & 99 arms objects (7 ball/shot/sprue pcs., 91 gunflints, & a gun part). The activity items were 3 toys, 30 miscellaneous hardware items, 2 construction tools, a storage item, 3 pcs. of horse tack, a fishing gear item, 2 Auto/Garage/Machine pcs., & 2,181 unidentified objects. The architectural items were 376 window glass pcs., 3,335 nails (93 cut, 235 wrought, 5 wire, 3,002 unidentified), 4 spikes, 2 construction hardware items, 2 door lock parts, & 6 miscellaneous architectural items. The clothing items were 3 buckles, 8 buttons, 6 shoe parts, & 2 miscellaneous clothing items. The kitchen assemblage included 1,241 ceramics sherds (10 tin-glazed/delftware, 4 Buckley, 2 Agateware, 14 cream-colored ware, 10 creamware, 58 pearlware, 22 miscellaneous earthenware, 17 redware, 21 Chinese export porcelain, 4 early porcelain, 1 late porcelain, 7 ironstone, 2 white salt-glazed/scratch blue stoneware, 17 other white-glazed stoneware, 14 English Brown stoneware, 2 Nottingham, 10 Westerwald, 29 miscellaneous stoneware, & 997 unidentified ceramics), 2,630 glass pcs. (4 table glass & 2,626 bottle glass pcs.), 11 kitchenware pcs., & 30 tableware items.

Area VIb was located to the east of Area VIa. The artifact patterns derived for that area were among the most strongly non-domestic (with Area IV) of any of the patterns derived for an Oxon Hill area. Architectural items accounted for a majority of the total collection, & the activity assemblage was the largest & most diverse of any such assemblage on the site. Numerous artifacts attributable to barns or farm support buildings were recovered from this area. The period of greatest artifact deposition was the 19th century, & the recovery of an 1898 coin indicated that activity in this area continued after the manor house burned.

The area did contain a small amount of 18th century artifacts, however, & there is no reason to believe that use of this area for barns or other support buildings began in the 19th century. The strongest evidence for a slave quarter and/or tenant house found on the property was identified to the south of Area VIb during a survey conducted subsequent to the data recovery field phase. A number of individual house sites were found there, & it's evident that a slave quarter that was directly attached to the manor house was located in that area.

Artifacts recovered from Area VIb were 18,061 architectural artifacts, 54 clothing items, 28 furniture objects, 8,042 kitchen-related artifacts, 9 personal items



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR175

Site Name: Addison House

Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s) Oxon Hill Manor, Addison Plantation

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Late 17th-19th century plantation

Unknown ☐

(3 glass beads, 3 coins, & 3 miscellaneous), 35 tobacco pipes & stems, & 32 arms objects (27 lead ball/shot/sprue pcs., 4 gunflints, & a gun part). The architectural artifacts were 2,239 window glass pcs., 15,707 nails (321 cut, 151 wrought, 84 wire, 15,151 unidentified), 61 spikes, 15 pcs. of construction hardware, 5 door lock parts, & 34 miscellaneous architectural items. The clothing items were 6 buckles, a thimble, 20 buttons, 10 hooks & eyes, 15 shoe parts, 2 miscellaneous clothing items. The furniture items included a tack, a furniture lock, 4 glass globe pcs., 13 glass table-top pcs., a furniture item, 7 metal furniture parts, & a porcelain drawer pull. Kitchen-related artifacts were 1,016 ceramic sherds, 6,845 bottle pcs., 15 kitchenware items, 165 tableware items, & a miscellaneous kitchen item.

Area VIc was located to the east of Area VIb & adjacent to & north of a modern access road. It was originally thought that area VIc contained the site of a single slave or tenant house, & excavation of that area was designed to gather comparative data that could then be used to better understand the results achieved on other areas of the site. Despite extensive excavation, only a single feature was found in Area VIc. That feature, which appeared to have been a posthole, was interpreted as having been part of a fence line. The area yielded a small collection (284 artifacts) from the topsoil of the units, & only 5 objects from the single feature. Researchers concluded that the recovered objects probably were the result of light & sporadic dumping episodes that did not mark & occupation locus.

Artifacts from Area VIc were 43 activity items (a miscellaneous hardware object, a storage item, & 41 unidentified items), 148 architectural artifacts (91 pcs. of window glass, 1 cut nail, 2 wire nails, & 54 unidentified nails), 127 kitchen-related items (42 ceramic sherds & 85 bottle glass pcs.), 12 tobacco pipe stem & bowl pcs., & an arms object (a gunflint).

Area VIId was located to the east of Area VIc, & was also adjacent to & north of the site access road. The goals established for Area VIId had been the same as those set for Area VIc, & once again the excavation failed to yield the anticipated results. A total of 11 artifacts were recovered from Area VIId. These consisted of 2 ceramic sherds, 4 pcs. of post-1850 bottle glass, a window glass shard, a nail, a hammer, & 2 unidentified pcs. of metal.

In addition to the Phase III artifact assemblage described above, an extensive assemblage of flora & fauna was recovered.

A total of 7,551 vertebrate & 1,418 invertebrate (oyster shell) faunal remains was recovered from the site. A minimum of 76 domestic mammals, 11 wild mammals, 33 domestic & wild birds, 3 frog/toads, 5 turtles, & 21 fish were identified in a sample analyzed. In general, the faunal assemblage was well preserved, with the only major biases being differential preservation in the waterlogged lower levels of the excavated well, & the screen size of the hardware mesh. This probably resulted in a lower rate of recovery for very small bones, especially fish. The results of the analysis by species & examination of butchering patterns revealed that the Addisons consumed primarily beef, pork, sheep, & deer portions, most of which were hacked into roast-sized cuts before preparation for roasting, stewing, frying, or baking for the table. There is little evidence for cutting of meat into steaks, or smaller portions, although this may have been done after bones were removed from the portions, leaving no cut marks on the bones themselves. Birds were probably prepared whole, perhaps after the removal of legs & the ends of wings, as these elements exhibit cut marks. This may also reflect carving at the table. Fish & small game were probably prepared whole, perhaps after filleting.

Botanical remains were an informative resource in understanding Oxon Hill Manor during the Addison occupation. The recovery of ornamental plants provided data on the composition & variety of the Addison formal garden. Bedstraw, sweet pea, Solomon's seal, violets, larkspur, delphinium, Joseph's coat, as well as jimsonweed, chickweed, & pigweed were common to 18th century gardens & were most likely components of the Addison formal garden. The remains of fruits, berries, & nuts from trees enhanced understanding of the range of fruit & ornamental trees that were cultivated at the manor house. The black locust was a popular flowering tree noted for its beauty in formal garden settings. The remains of hickory & walnut shells indicate the presence (if not cultivation) of these trees. Elm was also present at the site area. Elderberry, cherry, plum, & peach specimens were most likely cultivated by the Addisons. A number of recovered vegetable & potherb specimens greatly enhance understanding of the subsistence system as well as medicinal practices common to the 18th century. A wide range of plants utilized for their greens & seeds were recovered from the site area. Mustard greens, sorrel, kale, cress, as well as chamomile, chickory, & coriander were most likely important dietary constituents of the Addisons. The recovery of flax seeds gives insight into one of the domestic industries performed at the manor house. Processing flax for linen fibers was important to the self-sufficiency of the manor house & provided the Addisons & their dependencies with clothing & household linens.

Only a few months after the completion of the Phase III highway data recovery project, another Phase I survey was carried out. In the fall of 1985 this survey was carried out on a portion of the tract to be impacted by construction of the PortAmerica commercial development. The construction of this new office & port space would have impacted several portions of the site where intact features had already been identified.

The goals of the survey were achieved through a combination of shovel testing, surface survey, & probing. STPs were judgmentally placed to provide coverage of the project area, which was defined as that portion south of the highway right-of-way, north of the major ravine, west of Oxon Hill Road, & east of the slope to the Potomac floodplain. The limits of the survey area corresponded with the boundaries of the Oxon Hill site, excepting the northern boundary which represents the edge of the PortAmerica property; the northern half being that area examined during highway mitigation work.

Fifty-five shovel-tests were excavated to an average depth of 30 cm (subsoil), & all fill was screened through hardware mesh. All diagnostic artifacts were collected but only a representative sample of building material (e.g. bricks) was bagged. Shovel testing was complimented by surface survey. While the area was being walked, the surveyors were careful to note surface artifacts & other cultural features. Observation of the various landforms was important in choosing the judgmental shovel-test locations. Probing with a ½" diameter probe was utilized to trace a buried cobble driveway east of the main house. Some STPs helped to substantiate these findings.

The PortAmerica survey work in 1985 helped to outline several loci for further investigation. Artifacts recovered during these investigations included 414 architectural objects, 105 kitchen-related items, 16 miscellaneous historic objects, & 3 prehistoric items (a quartz biface & 2 grit-tempered sherds). The architectural assemblage consisted of 299 brick pcs., 13 pcs. of roofing slate, 29 mortar pcs., 12 pcs. of window glass, 30 pcs. of plaster, a chunk of daub, 2 square nails, 2 rosehead nails, 10 wire nails, 15 unidentified nails, & 1 nut. The kitchen assemblage included 27 ceramic sherds (19 cream-colored ware, 2 pearlware, 1 miscellaneous earthenware, 1 porcelain, 1 ironstone, 2 gray salt-glazed stoneware, & 1 unidentified), 27 pcs. of glass (3 olive green bottle pcs. & 24 other bottle pcs.), & 51 faunal remains (13 animal bones & 38 ppcs. of oyster shell). The miscellaneous historic items were an unidentified metal object, a piece of melted glass, 13 slate pcs., & a piece of coal. Based on these findings, Intensive Phase I survey & Phase II testing were recommended before the PortAmerica project could move forward.

A research team assembled at the site in late 1986 to conduct a more systematic survey of this southern portion of the site. Research began with an intensive excavation of STPs on a 10 m grid, which was surveyed over an area measuring approx. 550 m east to west & 150 m north to south. In several areas where



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR175

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Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s) Oxon Hill Manor, Addison Plantation

Historic ☒

Brief
Description:

Late 17th-19th century plantation

Unknown ☐

the right-of-way was unclear, STPs were placed outside the PortAmerica project area boundaries. One m square excavation units were then excavated where the results of STPs indicated that additional investigation was needed. In addition, several backhoe trenches were excavated to the west of the manor house to investigate the structure of the garden terrace.

During the intensive survey of 1986, 487 STPs were excavated to an average depth of 50 cm. Initially, STPs were located on the grid at 10 m intervals. When cultural materials were encountered, intermediate STPs were excavated in cardinal directions at 5 m intervals to more accurately delineate the extent of each resource. In addition, 51 one m square test units were excavated. In a number of instances, two 1 m squares were excavated in adjacent positions to form a 1 X 2 m test unit. In such cases recovery of artifacts & soil samples was maintained in 1 m square units.

In the excavation of STPs & 1 m squares, the excavated soil was screened through hardware. Soil samples for chemical analysis, & any artifacts found, were retained. STPs were excavated into the natural subsoil where possible. One m excavation units were excavated to sterile subsoil or were discontinued when features were identified, preserving features for excavation at a later date. In addition, 77.4 m2 of trenches were excavated with a backhoe to reveal the structure of the terrace in the formal garden area to the west of the manor house.

The remainder of the parcel was subjected to a pedestrian survey on 30 m transects to locate additional significant resources. STPs were excavated in areas having the potential to contain either historic or prehistoric archeological resources at 30 m intervals & judgmentally in higher artifact concentrations. STPs excavated in this fashion number 150. Areas of steep slope & high surface visibility (approx. 34 acres) were not shovel tested, although the ground surface was carefully examined in the course of pedestrian survey.

Additional work was carried out in the immediate vicinity of the manor house. This work consisted of the excavation of 21 additional 1 m square units, including 6 in the interior of the house. Rubble was removed by hand at 4 locations to permit the excavation of these units. In addition, four 1 m square units were excavated in the area of the previously identified meat house/icehouse (Area V). Again, all soil was screened & the location & profile of each unit was recorded. Plan drawings & photographs were made when features were encountered. Features were preserved intact for excavation at a later date.

Sixteen areas & subareas of material concentration (both artifact & features) were thus identified (or re-identified). Through pattern analysis areas & subareas of the site were separated into 3 groups. Areas associated with the Manor House (Areas Ia, Ib, Ic, Iva, V, Va, & Vb) produced kitchen group percentages suggesting a significant degree of public interaction. Areas VII & IX slightly southwest of the manor house, & XVI a few hundred meters to the southeast of the house produced kitchen group percentages within the range of the "Carolina Artifact Pattern" & were thought to have been homes to tenants or overseers. Areas XIII, XIV, & XV (several hundred meters east or northeast of the manor house) produced kitchen group percentages within the range of the "Carolina Slave Pattern" & were considered to have been slave habitations. Area XII, southeast of the Addison family cemetery was interpreted as a possible slave occupation later inhabited by tenants. Mean ceramic dates calculated for each area showed considerable variation, ranging from 1757 to 1846. Artifacts recovered included 5,176 architectural artifacts, 2,426 kitchen-related artifacts, & 396 personal & "other" items. The kitchen assemblage included at least 1,448 ceramic sherds.

It was determined that the 16 areas & subareas of artifact concentration identified during the 1987 work had the potential to provide significant information on the lifeways of the various inhabitants of the plantation. All of these site areas were expected to be adversely affected by the PortAmerica Project. As required by the Prince George's County Planning Board, a mitigation plan for the archeological data recovery of the 16 areas was developed & researchers returned to the site in 1987, & 1988 to complete this work.

Unfortunately, shortly after the completion of data recovery operations in 1987-1988, the developer of the PortAmerica project went bankrupt. While the artifacts had been excavated & features properly documented, no money was available for analysis of the collection/notes & writing up a final report on the work. Details of the excavation are sketchy, but the entire collection was turned over to the Maryland Archeological Conservation (MAC) lab & is available for research by qualified investigators.

The 1987/1988 fieldwork combined 2 primary techniques; manual excavation of units/features, & machine-assisted rubble removal. Field investigations focused primarily on the 1711 manor house foundation & a series of features that were eventually revealed to be the components of an earlier earthfast structure. In addition, some outlying 19th century tenant residences & other outbuildings were investigated.

When Col. John Addison purchased the land that would become Oxon Hill Manor in 1687, that portion of (then) Charles County was on the frontier of European settlement up the Potomac. He (or a tenant) appears to have built an earthfast house, but we don't know if John ever resided in it. He died without making a will & his estate inventory doesn't specify his place of residence. The earthfast house, as revealed through excavation, measured approx. 15.24 by 9.14 m (50 by 30 ft) in size, although it may have only been about 7 m (23 ft) wide initially. It had 2 main rooms of roughly equal size, as indicated by the remains of an H-shaped pair of back-to-back fireplaces that would have divided the space. A 2.44 m (8 ft) wide porch or gallery, or perhaps lean-to addition, may have been attached along the house's south side. It's unknown if the house stood taller than a single storey. A brick-lined cellar was present under the westernmost third of the house. Measuring approx. 9.14 X 4.57 m (30 X 15 ft), the cellar was divided into 2 rooms of about equal size. The north half had a brick floor, while the floor of the southern half was plank. A wood-lined passageway, about 1.6 m (5.25 ft) wide, extended approx. 7.62 m (25 ft) away from the house from the southwest corner of the cellar. This structure is one of the larger earthfast houses known. While not unique, its fireplace suggests that it was the dwelling of someone with means, & John Addison may well have resided here.

This house was situated approx. 45 m back from the edge of the bluff overlooking the Potomac, near the head of a spring draining to the river. It was oriented east-west & probably faced south. A small outbuilding measuring 3.05 X 3.66 m (10 X 12 ft) was found to the northwest of the house. It was perhaps used as a dairy or meat house, based on the cooling properties of its below-grade brick interior. A large, irregularly-shaped borrow pit was found to the northeast. Based on the artifacts recovered from the fill of the cellar hole, this building appears to have burned around 1730. It may have been a structure referred to as the "Other Store" mentioned in Thomas Addison's 1727 estate inventory.

During excavation of the earthfast house, five flintlock mechanisms & numerous arms items were recovered in & around the wood-lined passageway & cellar. The flintlocks reflect design elements dating from the mid to late 17th century, with one of the locks exhibiting features seen just before this type of "dog lock" was replaced by new technology ca. 1715. This evidence was thought to be related to Thomas Addison's duties as commander of the County Militia. It appears that the earthfast house was modified during his tenure for at least partial use as a militia storehouse. The unusual cellar passageway is very similar in form to structures from bombproof powder magazines in the early 18th century. The various arms items (the 5 flintlocks, 5 pistol butt plates, 12 triggers for at least 3 gun types, an English gunflint, & 35 other gun parts) appear to be leftover replacement parts for use by Col. Thomas' militia troops.



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number:	18PR175	Site Name:	Addison House	Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other name(s)	Oxon Hill Manor, Addison Plantation	Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brief Description:	Late 17th-19th century plantation			Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>

It's Thomas Addison who is believed to have built the brick manor house following his return from England in 1711 with his second wife. As revealed by excavation, the brick manor measured 21.95 X 12 m (72 X 39.4 ft) in size. Its cellar was divided into 6 spaces of roughly equal size. The floor of the center room on the eastern side was depressed approx. 61 cm (2 ft) below that of the adjoining rooms. Scars on the exterior foundation wall suggest an arched brick vault. A well was centered in the middle of the floor, leading to the interpretation that the room was used for cool storage of dairy products, fresh meats, & perhaps wine. The north end of the cellar contained a brick-floored kitchen with a large walk-in fireplace. A sketch of the house completed shortly before it burned in 1895 suggests that it stood 2½ stories tall, had 7 bays, was balanced & symmetrical in design, & was covered by a hipped roof. A small wing is shown on the north side of the brick manor. Excavation of this area confirmed the presence of a frame or earthfast addition connected to the north side of the main house by a passage.

Additional excavations on the garden terrace revealed the presence of complex drainage systems, as well as a sunken terrace. Almost no dateable artifacts were recovered from the garden, however, the formal gardens could date from as early as the original construction of the brick manor. It was almost certainly the creation of Thomas Addison, whose 1727 estate inventory mentions an indentured gardener.

In general, excavation work at 19PR175 revealed significant details about the structure of the 18th century plantation landscape of the Addison family, as well as the more modest 17th century landscape preceding it. Much of the site was destroyed or altered during the construction projects of the 1980s. The current status of the features is not well-known, however, the unexamined collections from the PortAmerica project remain un-analyzed. Perhaps this is the most practical venue for future research on Addison family plantation at Oxon Hill.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):
00006587, 95001503, 00006624, 00006625, 00006626, 00006627, 00006667, 00006668, JPPM, JPPM-OXON